

Basic Operations of Conservation Districts

In this Module, you'll learn a little more on how a CD is made up, who and what supervisors are, who the DNRC, Conservation Districts, and MACD are and how they fit in with Conservation Districts.

CD's become reality in Montana

Recap...

- Montana Conservation District law (Section 76-15-101, MCA), 1939.
- Each Conservation district is operated under the direction of a Board of Supervisors.
 - Supervisors are not paid officials, rather they are elected officials.
 - Each CD has typically 1 full time paid administrator to manage day to day office duties.



Basic Operations of Conservation Districts

Conservation District Supervisors:

- Conservation Districts (CD's) are subdivisions of state government, public bodies with certificates of organization issued by the Secretary of State.
- Each district is governed by a board of supervisors.
 - Five supervisors are elected in the general public election.
 - Supervisors are elected on a county-wide basis to a four year term.
 - Supervisors have roles and duties.

Urban Supervisors:

Two urban supervisors are appointed by incorporated municipalities within the district.

- Urban supervisors represent all municipalities in the district.
- Urban supervisors must be residents of municipalities within the district, and are appointed by the those incorporated municipalities.
- Serve a three year term.
- Both urban and elected supervisors have the same powers.

Note: Districts without incorporated municipalities have a maximum of five supervisors, but may request a change to seven-member elected board.

Conservation Districts

Associate Supervisors:

- CD's may also appoint an unlimited number of local individuals to serve as **associate supervisors**:
 - **May not vote.**
 - Assist district supervisors by **providing their experience** or advice.
 - Serve as an entry point and training ground for people who may eventually become district supervisors. Best of all, associate supervisors can help with the work load of the district.

Conservation Districts

- Funding for the operations and conservation activities of each district comes from a mill levied on real property within the boundaries of the district.
- The annual CD budget this millage produces varies from \$2,400 in less populated counties to \$100,000 in counties with a greater population.
- Your District?? 2013 \$?
- In most cases, funding is inadequate to meet the goals of districts, so they rely heavily on grants and other creative funding sources.

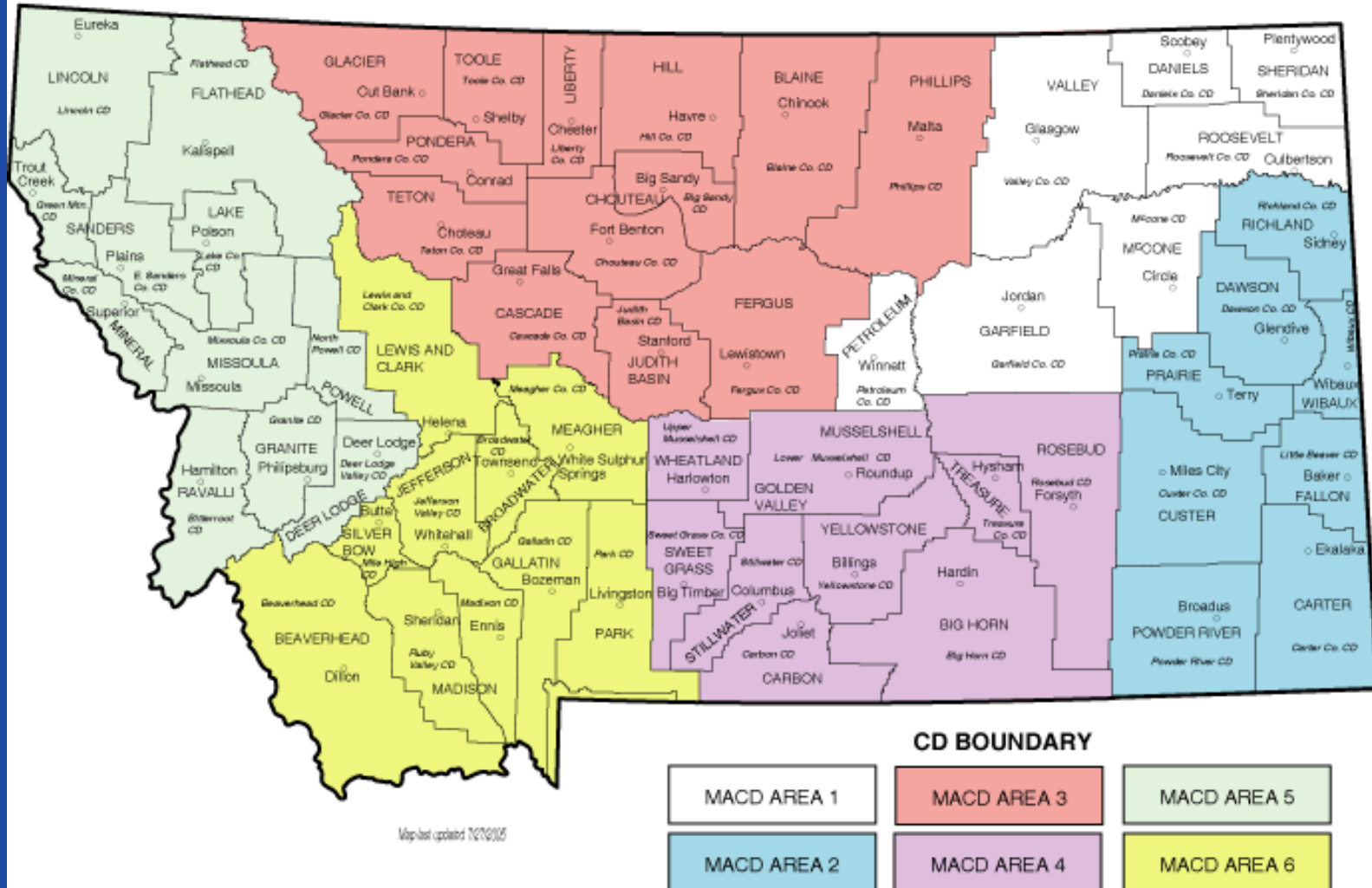
Montana's Districts Work Closely With...

The Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), created in 1942, is the conservation districts' private, nonprofit association. Governed by a statewide board of district supervisors, MACD:



- Serves as a collective voice for policy and legislation that affects conservation districts;
- Works with state agencies and the legislature to help direct natural resource policy;
- Works with the National Association of Conservation Districts, federal agencies, and Congress to help direct natural resource policy on a federal level; and,
- Is an information clearinghouse for and between the districts and raises public awareness of the districts activities.

MONTANA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Montana's Districts Work Closely With...

The Conservation and Resource Development Division (**CARDD**) in the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (**DNRC**) which has duties specifically established in state statute to:

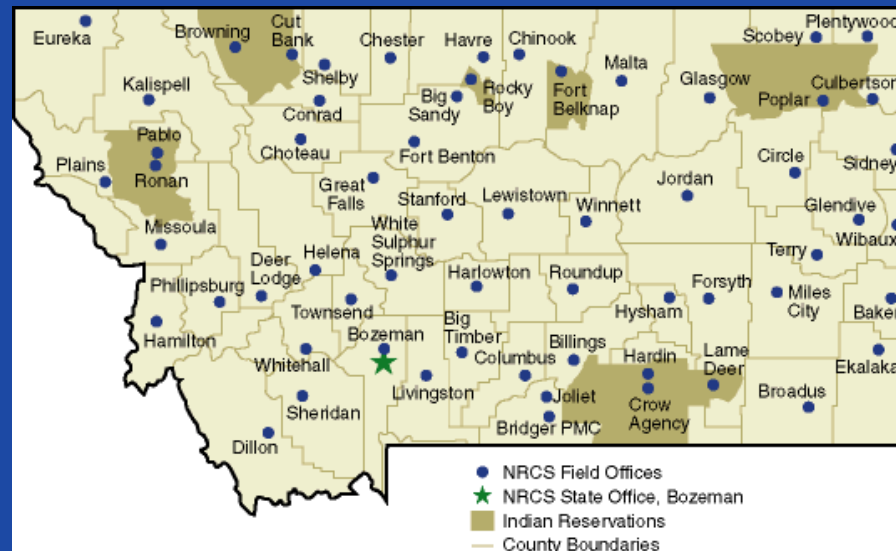
- Assist supervisors in carrying out their authorities and programs;
- Facilitate an interchange of information, activities, and cooperation between districts;
- Administer financial assistance programs for districts; and,
- Provide a link to the state government essential to the continued successful operations of district



Montana's Districts Work Closely With...

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS works side-by-side with CD's to provide science-based technical assistance on Montana's private lands. With 60 field offices across the states, NRCS provides:

- Agronomists, biologists, soil scientists, engineers and range conservationist, to help solve natural resource problems on-site.
- Natural resource data, information and planning assistance to individuals, CD's, and other local groups.



CD Operations in review:

- CD's are political subdivision of the state? T or F
- How many Supervisors are elected?
- Urban Supervisors are elected positions? T or F
- What is the maximum number of Associate supervisors a district can have?
- Associate supervisors have the same power as the elected supervisors? T or F
- CD's work closely with MACD, DNRC, and NRCS in carrying out the goals of the CD? T or F